

MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
10:00 a.m. Monday, February 18, 2008
Indiana State Department of Agriculture
Conference Room B
101 West Ohio St., Suite 1200
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Attendance

SSCB Members

Larry Clemens
Gary Conant
Bob Eddleman
Nola Gentry
Jim Cherry
Warren Baird
Bill Mann

Audience

Jerod Chew, ISDA
Cris Goode, ISDA
Kelly Gentry, ISDA
Amy Eizinger, ISDA
Jennifer Boyle, IASWCD

10:05 AM: Call to order

Nola Gentry welcomed everyone to the February 18, 2008 meeting.

Draft Minutes of January 2008

Bob Eddleman mentioned a spelling correction to be made on the last page. N. Gentry asked Kelly Gentry to make the correction and reprint the last page so the board can sign the approved minutes.

Eddleman moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Bill Mann seconded and the motion carried.

Leadership Development

District Requests – Kelly Gentry – No Requests

CWI Requests – Amy Eizinger

Brown County CWI Reallocation Request – See Attachment

Eddleman noticed Brown County's request did not state how much of the \$10,000 they want to use for advertising. He stated if a letter was to be sent it wouldn't cost more than \$350; however, they may want to hire a part time person to go to landowner's homes.

Eddleman moved to approve the Brown County reallocation request with a limit of \$1000 for advertising. Jim Cherry seconded. Discussion followed and the motion carried.

Dubois County CWI Amendment Request – See Attachment

Eddleman moved to approve the Dubois Country amendment request. Mann seconded. Discussion followed and the motion carried.

SSCB Chairman's Report – Nola Gentry

N. Gentry thanked Eddleman for his past two years of leadership and service as SSCB Chairman. N. Gentry suggested leaving the sub-committee assignments the same unless someone would like to change. Eddleman mentioned Jim Cherry would need to move to the Executive Committee now that he is the Vice Chairman. Either Eddleman or Larry Clemens would need to move to Grants Committee to take Cherry's place. Clemens volunteered to move to the Grants Committee so a past Chairman could still serve on the Executive Committee. The board came to consensus that Cherry would move to the Executive Committee and Clemens would move to the Grants Committee.

N. Gentry also mentioned it would be a good idea from a leadership stand point for the SSCB to have a business plan and each sub committee have a business plan. N. Gentry also suggested having a SSCB retreat and asked Cris Goode to facilitate. Details will be decided at a later date.

SSCB Sub-Committee Reports and Recommendations

District Capacity Committee Report and Recommendations – Nola Gentry

N. Gentry turned the report over to Eddleman and Goode to cover the RC&D League Project proposal.

RC&D League Project – Bob Eddleman – See Attachment

Eddleman asked Goode to bring everyone up-to-date on the Web site proposal that the District Capacity Committee met about the week before. Goode mentioned that while meeting with the League at Annual Conference about serving as the Leadership Institute administrator, they discussed an idea the League had regarding setting up a grassroots Web community to support conservation training and distribution as well as other resource areas of interest to the RC&D Councils. Goode stated she saw this as a perfect fit for the SSCB to help coordinate and build district capacity for SWCDs. This site would allow Supervisors and others to register for LI and other events online. With the different aspects of the site, SWCDs (and other conservation organizations) could utilize this tool to network and communicate with other SWCDs. They could post their own events and set up registrations. The initial cost would be \$2400 for standard features (see proposal). They could have the website running in as little as two weeks. Additional features could be purchased later for an additional \$2700.

Eddleman asked who at RC&D is in charge of the Web site proposal. Goode responded Ted Fowler from Dearborn Co.

Goode also mentioned that this website would not be limited to just SWCDs. All conservation organizations and partners could utilize the Web site. Goode said that she planned to share the proposal with the Outreach Committee at their next meeting to see how the ICP could best utilize this new tool.

More discussion followed on the RC&D Web site proposal.

Goode recommended going forward with the standard features, seeing how it works, and then later deciding if it is necessary to add the extra features. Once the ICP saw the value of the project, the need for additional features could go before the ICP Leadership for further financial support.

Clemens asked if there has been any discussion with the other partners about this proposal. Goode replied that she had mentioned it to the LI and Outreach Committees however, had not had the opportunity to discuss it in depth due to the fact she had just received the proposal last week and the Outreach Committee's meeting is not until next week. She shared that she would speak with the Outreach committee and report back to the SSCB their feedback on the best ways for the ICP to utilize this new tool. Eddleman thought this Web site could help solve double booking events and help SWCDs set events.

Warren Baird moved to approve the initial \$2400 to set up the standard Web site. Discussion followed on the budget and LI registration. Eddleman seconded and the motion carried.

CWI Grants Committee Report and Recommendations – Warren Baird – See Attachment

The Grants Committee recommended funding the Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Grants (SNRG) that scored above 75%. All board members went through each grant proposal and scored them accordingly to who they thought should be awarded with a grant. They were then totaled and ranked in order by score. There are 23 counties that scored above 75% and they include: Carroll, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Dearborn, DeKalb, Elkhart, Greene, Howard, Huntington, Jefferson, Jennings, Kosciusko, Monroe, Newton, Noble, Owen, Posey, Scott, Starke, Steuben, Sullivan and Washington.

Cherry mentioned 7 of those top 23 have never received a grant. It is nice to get them involved.

More discussion followed on ways to help districts write better grants and set guidelines for scoring grants.

N. Gentry pointed out that the top 23 grants are fairly spread out throughout the state.

The Grants Committee moved approve the CWI Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Grants for Carroll, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Dearborn, DeKalb, Elkhart, Greene, Howard, Huntington, Jefferson, Jennings, Kosciusko, Monroe, Newton, Noble, Owen, Posey, Scott, Starke, Steuben, Sullivan and Washington Counties. Eddleman seconded and the motion carried.

Executive Committee Report and Recommendations – Bob Eddleman – No Report

N. Gentry mentioned since we are ahead of time to go ahead and give verbal Division and Partnership reports.

Division Report

CREP Update – Jerod Chew – See Attachment

Chew mentioned in addition to the CREP Report that the Division continues to work with DNR to expedite the CREP Easement process.

Chew mentioned that the issue regarding Clean Water Indiana funds reverting back to the cigarette tax fund appears to be resolved. Further information will be presented at upcoming State Soil Conservation Board meetings as it becomes available.

More discussion followed regarding the concern around the reversion of Clean Water Indiana funds. Jennifer Boyle, IASWCD, offered information as they understand the situation. Jennifer said that the \$500,000 will not revert; that money is set aside for CREP. She also mentioned that they had spoken to Senator Meeks about CREP. She stated that he feels there is duplication in dollars. She stated that they would like to talk with Senator Meeks about our programs and help him understand them better.

More discussion followed.

Clean Water Indiana Grants – Amy Eizinger – See Attachment

Technical Support Update – Jerod Chew – No Report

District Support Update – Jerod Chew

Chew reported two offers are currently out to fill the vacant DSS positions.

Leadership Development Workgroup Update – Jennifer Boyle – No Report

Delivery System Workgroup Update – Tammy Lawson – No Report

Funding Workgroup Update – Bob Eddleman – No Report

Accountability Workgroup Update – Deb Fairhurst – No Report

Technology Workgroup Update – Jane Hardisty – No Report

Outreach Workgroup Update – Jim Droege – No Report

Conservation Partner Reports

DNR Report – Gary Langell – No Report

IDEM Report – Marylou Renshaw – No Report

Purdue Report – Gary Steinhardt – No Report

IASWCD President's Report – Jim Droege – No Report

Farm Services Agency Report – Gail Peas – No Report

NRCS State Conservationist's Report – Jane Hardisty – See Attachment

SWCD Foundation Report – Christa Jones – No Report

Public Comment – No Comments

Other Comments from the Board

Eddleman mentioned that Janet Ayres, Purdue University, was awarded the Friend of Conservation Award during the NACD Annual Meeting. Gene Schmidt, LaPorte SWCD, was also elected as the Secretary and Treasurer of the NACD and was awarded the President's Award. Eddleman suggested sending a letter to them congratulating them on their election and awards. N. Gentry and Kelly Gentry will draft a letter to send to them from the board.

Chew asked the board if a notification/press release should be sent to those districts that were awarded grants today. He also suggested sending certificates to those districts like last year. The board agreed to send a press release and certificates to each district which was awarded a grant. Eizinger will work with the communications department on getting a press release put together and K. Gentry will work with the Division on getting certificates mailed out.

Baird suggested taking the map of each district that applied for the SNRG and highlight those that were awarded the grant. Goode replied that is something Deb Fairhurst could work on. More discussion followed on sediment and nutrient projects and other news issues.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 9:00 AM at ISDA

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM